

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed June 24, 2008, requiring an election of the claimed invention among Groups 1-VII, where Groups I-III are included in Group A (claim 1-8) related to a product, and Groups IV-VII are included in Group B (claim 9-21) related to a method:

Group I, identified to include claims 1-5, allegedly drawn to the composition of a barrier layer;

Group II, identified to include claims 1 and 6-7, allegedly drawn to the angle between first and third surfaces;

Group III, identified to include claims 1, 6 and 8, allegedly drawn to the composition of a further barrier layer;

Group IV, identified to include claims 9-10, allegedly drawn to a method for printing an ink in a pattern on a substrate involving bringing an elastomeric stamp into contact with the ink, absorbing the ink, cleaning the barrier layer of the stamp, drying the stamp and forming a pattern by placing the ink on the substrate;

Group V, identified to include claims 11-13, allegedly drawn

to a method of printing with an elastomeric stamp comprising depositing a metal on the stamp surface and oxidizing the barrier layer;

Group VI, identified to include claims 11 and 14-18, allegedly drawn to a method of printing with an elastomeric stamp involving adhering polymer material to the stamp surface; and

Group VII, identified to include claims 11 and 19-21, allegedly drawn to the composition of the first surface of the elastomeric stamp using in a method of printing ink on a substrate.

Applicants hereby elect without traverse Group II including claims 1 and 6-7. Claims 2-5 and 8-21 are withdrawn.

Further, by means of the present amendment, the drawings have been amended:

1. to change numerals "22" pointing to the upper surfaces to --24--, in conformance with the specification, such as page 8, line 18; and
2. to change the dashed lines in FIG 5c from surfaces 16 to solid lines, in conformance with the specification, such as page 13, lines 21-23.

Replacement sheets including FIGs 1c and 5c are enclosed. Further, an annotated marked-up version of the sheet including FIGs 1c and 5c are enclosed for convenience. Applicants respectfully request approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended to correct certain informalities.

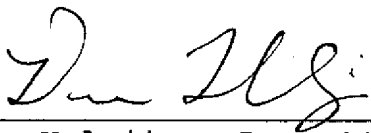
By means of the present amendment, claims 1-21 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and adding punctuation inadvertently deleted by the Preliminary Amendment filed on April 13, 2006. Such amendments to claims 1-21 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of

argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (2 sheets including
FIGS 1c and 5c)
Annotated drawing sheet (2 sheets showing changes
to FIGS 1c and 5c)

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